

May 26, 2015

Honorable Mayor Adler and City Council Members
City of Austin
301 W. Second Street, 2nd Floor
Austin, Texas 78701


Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

Please let this letter serve as our express request that the Austin City Council not approve a resolution directing the City Manager to file a challenge petition with the Appraisal Review Board for the Travis Central Appraisal District. This action will disrupt other independent governing bodies' ability to set tax rates and collect tax revenues necessary to provide essential city services. Austin's filing of a challenge petition will have a negative impact on the City of Pflugerville and as many as one hundred other local political subdivisions.

Concerns about limitations in Texas law inhibiting the ability of appraisal districts to precisely determine the taxable value of commercial property is understandable. However, we disagree with the method and timing of the proposed challenge petition because it has not been conducted with the involvement of Austin's regional city partners. Several options were presented at the May 26th Austin City Council Special Work Session that would contest valuations without delaying the certification of the Travis County tax rolls. The City of Pflugerville would strongly support one of these alternate methods and would welcome being a part of a group to bring the issue of fair valuation forth to the 2017 Texas Legislature.

The central Texas area has a proud record of solid regional partnerships on issues that affect our joint interests and citizens. We respectfully request that you continue that partnership in good faith by delaying this action and instead move forward with open discussion, reasonable timing, and in partnership with the City of Pflugerville and other impacted local governing entities.

Respectfully,


Jeff Coleman
Mayor
City of Pflugerville